

guns out of the hands of criminals than our drug laws have been at keeping drugs out of the hands of addicts?

The difference is that drug laws don't disarm law-abiding citizens from defending themselves, their children, and their fellow citizens. Gun laws do.

The President tells us that hardening our schools isn't the answer. Well, if he actually meant that, he ought to dismiss the Secret Service and open the front door of the White House and be sure to declare it a gun-free zone.

Of course, hardening vulnerable venues like schools works. There is a reason why 98 percent of mass shootings occur in so-called gun-free zones: There is nobody there to shoot back, and the criminals know that. The Buffalo shooter noted precisely that in his manifesto.

The good news is we know what works. Prosecuting gun criminals and putting them in prison until they are old and gray works. Yet woke district attorneys across the country refuse to do so. Executing murderers works. Yet the left has largely succeeded in all but abolishing the death penalty.

□ 1015

And protecting the right of responsible citizens to return fire works. It stops an estimated half million to 2 million crimes in this country every year.

The father of modern policing, Sir Robert Peale, often observed that the police are simply an extension of community; that, in reality, the community is the police and the police are the community. Every citizen, he said, has a right and duty to defend themselves and to uphold the law. The police are there, not to replace private citizens, but to support them.

So let me ask, is the surest path out of this violent chapter of our history the quixotic quest to get 400 million guns off the streets, or is it to get the criminals who use them off the streets? That is what we once did, before social justice replaced criminal justice.

We prosecuted gun criminals to the fullest measure of the law. We executed murderers. We identified the dangerously mentally ill and confined them so we could treat them. These measures worked until the left seized control of our cities and reversed them.

I think it is long past time to take those streets back, get the criminals and dangerously mentally ill off of them, and protect our children with the same resolve and force as we use to protect our money.

HONORING THE 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF HAWAII

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to recognize and honor the selfless service of the Japanese Americans who served our country in World War II with the

famed 100th Infantry Battalion of Hawaii, or the One Puka Puka.

This year, the fabled 100th celebrates its 80th anniversary. The battalion was composed of 1,400 Americans of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty was questioned by our government following the attacks on Pearl Harbor and much worse. Although much of the U.S. public looked upon them with disdain and skepticism, these soldiers simply persevered. Their story is one of patriotism, tenacity, and courage.

Following the attacks on Pearl Harbor, and when anti-Japanese hysteria was at its peak, these young men raised their hands and demanded the right to defend America.

With the support of U.S. military officers and others in Hawaii and elsewhere, the Federal Government eventually created an all-Nisei, or second-generation Japanese-American Army unit, the 100th Infantry Battalion.

Just before their deployment in August of 1943, the men of the One Puka Puka selected the motto "Remember Pearl Harbor" to reflect their anger at the attack on their country.

Although the cloud of racism and underlying uncertainty hovered over these brave Americans, their performance was nothing less than exemplary. In September 1943, the 100th arrived in North Africa, but soon transferred to central Italy, where it faced heavy combat. It eventually became known as the Purple Heart Battalion because of its high casualty rate.

One of its members and casualties was Captain Spark Matsunaga, who suffered grievous injuries in a mine field. He later became a Member of this hallowed House and, after that, a United States Senator, inspiring generations, including me, who was privileged to serve 3 years on his staff. His own story is just one of countless we can and should remember.

In August, 1944, and after a year of combat, the battalion integrated with the Japanese Americans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. They then continued to fight through Italy and France. The men of the 100th spent 20 months in Europe and fought in six campaigns across Italy and France. They received six Distinguished Service Crosses and earned three Presidential Unit Citations. Along with the 442nd, the 100th Infantry Battalion is recognized as the most decorated American unit in our history for its size and length of service.

The lineage and honors of the 100th and 442nd live on today and are preserved by the 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry, U.S. Army Reserve. Today, the unit is staffed with reservists from Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Saipan. These men and women carry on the legacy of the soldiers that endured so much before them 80 years ago.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to groups like the Nisei Veterans Legacy and the Military Intelligence Service Education Society of Hawaii, and others, for keeping the 100th Battalion's

legacy alive. They have all been critical in recognizing the sacrifices of our Japanese Americans to defend a country that questioned their loyalty.

On the walls of the National Japanese American Memorial, not far from our U.S. Capitol, the late Senator Spark Matsunaga's words still ring true today: "We believed a threat to this Nation's democracy was a threat to the American Dream and to all free peoples of the world."

Today, we renew our debt of gratitude to the Japanese Americans of the One Puka Puka. May they live forever in our hearts and minds.

RECOGNIZING LINDSAY HOLCOMB, JR., ON HIS 88TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and wish a happy 88th birthday to an exemplary North Carolinian, Lindsay Holcomb, Jr., of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It has been my honor and pleasure to know Lindsay for nearly 30 years, and I understand what a remarkable man he truly is.

After graduating from Duke University in under 4 years, he went on to serve in both the United States Army and National Guard. Later, he became president of Pine State Knitwear, a prominent textile manufacturer in Mount Airy, North Carolina.

Additionally, he served on the Board of Trustees for Northern Surry Hospital for three decades, and was chairman four of those years.

That is an impressive resume. But there is more, much more to his story. He served in pivotal leadership roles within the community as well and showed his generosity in many ways.

He and his late brother, Smith, funded a care wing at Arbor Acres, an independent living community in Winston-Salem, in honor of their mother who suffered from dementia. They also donated the waiting room in the Perry Clinic at Arbor Acres.

He is the kind of person who would give the shirt off his back to help someone in need, and his service to others speaks volumes about his character.

God bless you, Lindsay, and happy 88th birthday. Here is to many more.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF WILLIAM MORGAN, JR.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize William Morgan, Jr., of Statesville, North Carolina. For the last 8½ years, he has served as a city council member and mayor pro tem of Statesville. In these two roles, he has excelled tremendously.

I have had the pleasure of knowing William for many years, and there is no question about how dedicated he is to serving others.

William, your tireless advocacy efforts, and record of accomplishments for the city of Statesville and its many

citizens has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your service to our great State, and may God bless you and Tina as you enter this new chapter of your life.

IT IS TIME TO RE-EDUCATE WASHINGTON

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, Washington needs to be re-educated on the meaning of "shall not be infringed."

The Second Amendment insulates the American people from the Federal Government exerting undue influence over them; otherwise known as infringement.

When the Federal Government acts in haste, the room for error is drastically compounded; as is the case with the Democrat gun control bills that are before this very body.

Let me be very clear: The horrific tragedies that occurred in Uvalde and Buffalo are truly heartbreaking. I continue to pray for our society and for the families of the men, women, and children who were senselessly murdered.

Before proposals are put on the table, however, this problem must be diagnosed in its entirety.

The Supreme Court has recognized the right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment.

Further, the Court specifically recognizes that the inherent right to self-defense is protected by the Second Amendment as well.

A study conducted in 2013 estimated that firearms are used in defense from half a million to 3 million times annually. Americans exercise their Second Amendment rights when protecting their family and property. It was not written so that one could go hunting.

As former Senator Tom Coburn once said, "It was to create a force to balance a tyrannical force here."

The Federal Government should not be in the business of issuing edicts that threaten the Second Amendment rights of Americans. It is a right that cannot be infringed.

GUN CONTROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I have shared before that my father was for many decades a New York City police officer. He had to carry a firearm to protect himself and others, but was acutely aware of individuals on the street, often with guns illegally, who could harm him and those he was tasked to protect.

I do not oppose the right of American citizens to own guns, or intend to rob any constitutional rights. But, we all know that money, hatred, and power have used the Constitution to cover themselves from showing the real intent that they have, the love of greed, desire for power, ignorance, racism, hatred. That is what many are using that constitutional protection to cover themselves from.

Over 50 percent of gun violence is attributable to people who use handguns to commit suicide. The remainder of those deaths and injuries are largely homicide and murder, such as widespread street crime. Then there are mass killings, which have been on an uptick in recent years.

On May 24, in Texas, an 18-year old boy acted as a lone gunman in the second deadliest school shooting on record. Armed with a semiautomatic rifle and 375 rounds of ammunition, he entered Robb Elementary School, opened fire, and laid waste to 19 children and two teachers. The pervasiveness and regularity of such occurrences in the United States has reached epidemic levels.

In 2020, 45,222 Americans died of gun-related injuries, more than any other year on record. That is a 14 percent increase since 2019; a 25 percent increase since 2015; and a 43 percent increase since 2010. In this year alone, almost 19,000 people have already lost their lives; a number, evidenced by the events of the past couple of weeks, are only on the rise.

This weekend alone, over a dozen mass shootings took place: Buffalo, Texas, Philadelphia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma, so many more. These mass killings are just the tip of the iceberg with respect to gun violence carnage in America.

Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in this Nation. How many more children will be sacrificed before action is taken? How many more schools will we allow to become battlefields and burial grounds for the sake of the cloak that many are using the Constitution for.

The time for action is now. We know that our gun violence epidemic can be substantially curtailed with thoughtful, reasonable commonsense gun legislation. This includes raising the age, as we have done for so many things, for automatic purchases to 21, and developing and implementing more comprehensive background checks to prevent situations like the Buffalo shooting and the Uvalde massacre.

We need to strengthen gun laws for gun trafficking, which is devastating our country. Areas with strong gun laws cannot curtail the influx of illegal guns trafficked in from States with few restrictions. Places like New York City and Chicago cannot curtail the illegal weapons coming from other places.

With higher unemployment rates, places like my home, the Virgin Islands, has the second highest rate of guns smuggled across its borders and a homicide rate nine times higher than the 50 States.

As well as better establishing and regulating gun storage to prevent minors from acquiring deadly weapons, it is necessary for Members on both sides of this debate to come together to protect the lives of our citizens.

Throw off the cloak that you are using, calling our Constitution to hover and hide what you are really protecting: money, power, hatred.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING STEVE MEINHAUSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an extraordinary friend and great servant of the Texas 27th Congressional District, Steve Meinhausen.

Steve came to Texas in 2004 with his wife, Carrie, and four children: Matthew, Makenna, Kacey, and Ellie. Steve and his family brought selfless hearts and an entrepreneurial spirit to our part of south Texas.

Steve opened many businesses during his time, the most famous being Stevie Lew's BBQ. In 2017, when Hurricane Harvey hit Rockport, among his many generous community endeavors, Steve graciously opened his restaurant to feed over 12,000 meals to volunteers and others in need.

Steve has built for his family a legacy of generosity, a sincere love of God, and a strong work ethic. I thank Steve for all he has done for the many people he has blessed in the Rockport-Fulton area. He is truly a servant of God and an exemplary citizen.

It is my honor to recognize Steve for his outstanding service and dedication to family, to community, and to our Nation.

ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, it has been 23 years since Columbine. It has been 15 years since Virginia Tech, 10 years since Sandy Hook, 4 years since Parkland. We have offered prayer and thoughts for years with no real action.

It has been 15 days since the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children were massacred. One of the students, a 10-year-old girl, survived because she covered herself in the blood of her dead classmate.

We have trained kids to hide under their tables. We have trained teachers to barricade their doors. We have trained schools to lock down their campuses. Now, are we going to train kids to cover themselves with their friend's blood in order to survive?

When are we going to understand the common denominator here is not just criminals but making it easy for criminals to access deadly weapons?

Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Canada all dealt with mass shootings, but there was a national outcry, and they put in place restrictions to stop mass carnage from happening again.

We don't have mental health issues more than any other country. What we do have here are politicians who lack the moral courage to stand up to the NRA. We have a society that is not willing to stand up to protect its citizens, especially its most vulnerable,